



MUNICIPAL NEWSLETTER

Town of Carlisle

FEBRUARY 2026

Sign up for News Flashes on the Town website to stay updated on the next edition!

Welcome Zachariah Coleman!



We are excited to welcome Zach Coleman to our Police Department. Officer Coleman brings 15 years of experience with the Dracut Police Department, serving as a K-9 Handler and working alongside agencies such as the ATF, DEA, and FBI. A U.S. Coast Guard veteran and Field Training Officer, he is also a member of the NEMLEC K-9 Command Cadre. Committed to community engagement, Officer Coleman regularly participates in public outreach events and helped establish the Dracut Police Honor Guard in 2024, and we are proud to have him join our team.

Foss Farm Community Garden

2026 Foss Farm Community Garden Applications are now available: <https://www.carlislema.gov/1295/Foss-Farm-Community-Gardens>. Large plots are 25' x 30' and small plots are 10' x 12'. If you'd like to drop your application off at Town Hall, you can bring it to the 2nd floor in the Conservation Department. You can also mail them to Town Hall. They are due no later than March 27th, but if you can get them in earlier that would be greatly appreciated!



carlislema.gov

Town Clerk's Office Attends MTCA Conference



On February 5, 2025, Town Clerk Ashley Cote and Assistant Town Clerk Melissa Danish attended the Massachusetts Town Clerks Association Winter Conference in Devens. The conference provided important updates on vital records and voter registration software, campaign finance reporting requirements, and the process for submitting bylaw amendments to the Attorney General's Office.

Presenters included State Auditor Diana DiZoglio; Bill Campbell and Jason Tait from the Office of Campaign and Political Finance; Michelle Tassinari, First Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth and Elections Division Counsel; and Nicole Caprioli, Assistant Attorney General.

The training supports the Town Clerk's Office in staying current with state requirements and continuing to provide accurate, efficient service to residents.

2026 Massachusetts Municipal Association's Connect 351

Town Administrator Ryan McLane, Assistant Town Administrator and Human Resources Director Aubrey Thomas, Executive Assistant to the Select Board and Town Administrator Gretchen Gallimore, and Select Board member Christine Stevens (all pictured) joined this year's conference in Boston. The group learned how to navigate complex municipal financial pressures, creative talent recruitment and retainment, the importance of collaboration, and much more. This annual conference is always an opportunity to take the momentum of fresh ideas back to Town!



Race Amity Day Movie & Game Night

The Carlisle Race Amity Day committee, in collaboration with the Gleason Library, invites you to join us in Celebrating Black History Month with a Movie & Game Night.

Join us Tuesday February 24th at 6:30p as we screen a 30 min viewing of “Godmothers of Race Amity”, at the Gleason Library in Carlisle. This is the story of the friendship and collaboration of Mary McLeod Bethune and Eleanor Roosevelt, and the pathways they framed for long term change in America.

After the viewing we will play games such as “Breaking it Down”, which gently opens and guides dialogue around friendship and race, and the drawing game “Blind Contour” where we blindly draw a stranger and “see” them for the first time!



We will have light refreshments and build bonds of friendship and unity. Register here if you like, or drop in! Link: <https://gleasonlibrary.assabetinteractive.com/calendar/race-amity-film-showing/>

Tuesday 2/24/26 @6:30p
 Gleason Public Library
 22 Bedford Road
 Carlisle, MA. 01741

CRAD Carlisle Race Amity Day Committee

FNL at Hudson Roller Kingdom

We're taking FNL out! Roll into the fun at Hudson Roller Kingdom! Join us on Saturday, April 4th from 6:00–8:00 PM for our first-ever offsite event! We're so excited to invite all the middle schoolers to a night of skating, music, races, and prizes—with the cost covered by the Carlisle Youth Commission. Registration (including waiver) is required through the Carlisle Rec Department. We ask that you please register by April 1st so that we can give a headcount to the venue. Skates will be provided, or feel free to bring your own skates or rollerblades. We'll have pizza, snacks, and drinks for the kids to enjoy. We hope to see as many kids as possible, and carpooling is encouraged. Parent chaperones are always welcome and appreciated! If you have any questions, get in touch- carlisleyouthcommission@gmail.com. (See flyer on Page 4)

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE

*offsite
event!*

ROLLERSKATE PARTY!

FREE SKATE
RENTAL!

MUSIC, RACES +
PRIZES!

FREE
REGISTRATION!

PIZZA, SNACKS
+ DRINKS!



SATURDAY

April 4th

ROLLER KINGDOM

HUDSON

6-8PM

5 HIGHLAND PARK AVE, HUDSON, MA

PLEASE REGISTER BY APRIL 1ST

From the DPW Director

Howdy folks!

Boy oh boy! Was that a doozy of a storm or what! It's been a while since we had one of those. This winter has been unrelenting and brutally cold for all. We here at the DPW. have been working very hard to keep up with every storm and keep the roads safe for all. I appreciate all comments and concerns regarding trouble spots throughout town. It helps guide us to these areas and get them cleared up as soon as possible. Here are a few action shots of what we went through when dealing with multiple storms including white out conditions while plowing. Hang in there folks, as of press time there only 37 days until spring! As always, we thank you for your patience and support.

Jim





Carlisle Environmental Sustainability Committee

2025 Accomplishments at a Glance

Building a Sustainable Future for Our Town

\$1.15 MILLION in state grant opportunities secured

BUILT ENVIRONMENT IMPACT

Buildings
Transitioning to Heat Pumps

EV Charging Stations

\$10K Equipment Rebate Certificate

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT STEWARDSHIP

Native Plant Landscaping Policy

Invasive Species Removal

Water Chestnut Cleanup

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & EDUCATION

Exhibitors at Sustainability Fair

Town Committees Engaged

Youth Climate Programs

2025 IMPACT

Funding Opportunities

Projects

Electrification

At RTSD Fair

Countless Residents Reached



2026 Town Caucus

The 2026 Carlisle Town Caucus will be held on Tuesday, March 31, 2026 to hear nominations for the following Town offices:

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| Two (2) Members of the Select Board | Three-year term |
| One (1) Member of the Board of Assessors | Three-year term |
| One (1) Members of the Board of Health | Three-year term |
| One (1) Member of the Library Trustees | Three-year term |
| One (1) Member of the Library Trustees | One-year term |
| Two (2) Members of the Planning Board | Three-year term |
| One (1) Member of the Planning Board | One-year term |
| Two (2) Members of the School Committee | Three-year term |

Those unable to attend the caucus who are interested in running for office may obtain nomination papers from the Town Clerk’s Office starting Monday, February 23, 2026.

Questions may be directed to the Town Clerk’s Office: 978-369-6155, townclerk@carlislema.gov.

From the Tax Collector’s Office

2026 MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE TAX BILLS



2026 Motor Vehicle Excise Tax bills are being mailed on February 12th. These bills will be due on Monday, March 16, 2026. Payments can be sent to our lockbox at the address printed on your bill, online through the Unipay system on the Town of Carlisle’s website, dropped off at our secure mailbox at Town Hall, or in person.

Mass. General Laws Ch. 60A, Section 2 notes that failure to receive a bill does not absolve your responsibility to pay. Please call the Tax Collector’s Office at 978-369-5557 if you don’t receive a bill. If you no longer own the vehicle you have received an excise tax bill for, please contact the Assessors’ Office to apply for an abatement.

From the Council on Aging and Human Services

Message from the Council on Aging and Human Services,

As winter settles in, Carlisle Council on Aging and Human Services has been focused on keeping residents connected. In January, we launched new ways to gather indoors—weekly community lunches and a combined community breakfast series—because winter can be isolating, and a warm meal and familiar faces make a real difference. We also kicked off the year with special events and strong participation across programs, trips, and classes.

February continues that momentum with seasonal lunches, educational programs, tech support, movement classes, and opportunities to connect—along with an important reminder: if heating costs are becoming a worry, please reach out. We are here to help, and all inquiries are handled confidentially.

Warmly,
COAHS

January highlights we loved seeing:

- A strong start to the year with community meals and social gatherings, including the New Year’s luncheon and more opportunities to connect midweek.
- Continued engagement in support groups and social hours, helping residents stay connected during the toughest weather stretch.
- Great participation in technology learning and “watch together” programs at Town Hall.

February highlights — Here are a few February standouts to circle:

- Large participation in our “Felted Penguin with a Heart” for Valentine’s Day
- Valentine’s Lunch + Prize Bingo at the First Religious Society Congregational Church.
- Weekly Community Lunch (Wednesdays) at Town Hall — warm soup/sandwich lunch and conversation.
- Community Breakfast (select Mondays) — one big gathering around the table.
- Virtual & in-person program: “The Life of Meriwether Lewis” (join from home or watch together).
- Tech help: iPhone essentials and small-group iPhone series (limited seats).
- Arts & crafts: Winter Fox painting (Almost full—register soon!)

Fuel & Heating Assistance — please don’t wait to ask

If you are worried about heating oil, gas, propane, electricity, or staying warm at home, please contact us, winter bills can spike unexpectedly—and help is available.

Kathleen Bond can help residents:

- Explore fuel and heating assistance options and other benefit programs
- Problem-solve urgent situations (for example: risk of shutoff, overdue balance, or an unexpected heating expense)

(Continued on Page 9)

From COAHS, Continued from Page 8

- Connect to local and regional resources, and help you plan next steps

All calls are confidential. If you're unsure whether you qualify, please call anyway.

Contact Kathleen: 978-759-7621 | kbond@carlislema.gov

Main Office: 978-371-2895

Transportation reminder

COAHS transportation provides rides Monday–Friday (medical appointments, COAHS events, groceries/errands for Carlisle seniors and residents with disabilities). Please schedule in advance.

Transportation/Services: Jennifer Gagne

978-371-6690 | jgagne@carlislema.gov

Inclement weather policy reminder

If school is cancelled, most in-person events and rides are cancelled (Zoom programs may still run). If school is delayed, morning events/rides may be cancelled. When in doubt, call the office.

Quick “How to Register”

To register or ask questions: coahs@carlislema.gov | 978-371-2895

From the Gleason Public Library

Rockabye Beats Family Concert

Families are invited to join Rockabye Beats for a rocking good time at the Gleason Library on Wednesday, February 18th, at 2 p.m. This 45-minute program is high-energy and engaging, mixing original songs with familiar favorites, plus a little Spanish sprinkled in! Perfect for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers, but all ages are welcome. This program is supported by a grant from the Carlisle Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. Register at gleasonlibrary.org/events.



An Introduction to Trail Cameras

Curious to know what Carlisle wildlife is frolicking in your own backyard? Join local wildlife enthusiast Jaime Webster for an introductory presentation on trail camera equipment and set up, featuring photos and videos from her own cameras and some thoughts on the importance of ecological consciousness in our Carlisle ecosystem, on Wednesday, February 18th, at 7 p.m. at the Gleason Library third floor Hollis Room. Presented by the Carlisle Conservation Foundation and Gleason Public Library.

Black History Month movie and game night

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After the viewing we will play games such as "Breaking it Down", which gently opens and guides dialogue around friendship and race, and the drawing game "Blind Contour" where we blindly draw a stranger and "see" them for the first time!

We will have light refreshments and build bonds of friendship and unity. Registration appreciated at gleasonlibrary.org/events; drop-in attendees are welcome!

Bird and Wildlife Photography: Massachusetts and Beyond

On Wednesday, March 11th, at 7 p.m., wildlife photographer and educator Shawn Carey of Migration Productions will expertly guide you through various aspects of bird and nature photography: choosing the right equipment; where to go and when; and how to turn those great looks into memorable images. Along with stories of his own experiences in the field, he will share some tricks of the trade to

help you make the most of your experience. Presented by the Carlisle Conservation Foundation and the Gleason Library's Susan P. Zielinski Natural Science Fund.

Registration requested at gleasonlibrary.org/events





FEBRUARY IS HEART HEALTH MONTH

The American Heart Association highlights 8 measures in our lives that are deemed essential to improve/maintain cardiovascular health. Improved cardiovascular health helps lower the risk of heart disease, stroke and other major health problems.



HEALTHY EATING

Be sure to include whole foods (breads & pastas), lots of fruits & vegetables, fish, chicken, nuts, and seeds in your diet.



ACTIVITY LEVELS

Adults should aim to have 2.5 hours of moderate to vigorous physical activity per week.



QUIT TOBACCO

Use of inhaled nicotine products is the leading cause of preventable death in the United States



BETTER SLEEP

Adults should get between 7-9 hours of sleep per night. It helps to increase brain function and decrease the risk of chronic disease.



WEIGHT MANAGEMENT

Try to maintain a healthy body weight. Calorie tracking can promote necessary weight loss/gain.



CHOLESTEROL LEVELS

High levels of bad cholesterol (greater than 100 mg/dL) can lead to heart disease.



BLOOD SUGAR MANAGEMENT

High blood sugar can damage the heart, kidneys, and more. Healthcare providers can take blood glucose readings to determine blood glucose levels



BLOOD PRESSURE MANAGEMENT

A healthy blood pressure range can keep people healthier longer. Blood pressure at or less than 120/80 mmHg is best for healthy living.

Resource: National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute



For More Information on Heart-Healthy Living Visit:
www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/heart-healthy-living



Great Meadows
PUBLIC HEALTH COLLABORATIVE

Facilities at Work!

It's been an especially busy winter for the Facilities team. Facilities Director Stephen Connearney shared photos from the January 26 storm cleanup, along with updates on efforts to address a frozen underground drainpipe and hazardous ice dams.



From Carlisle Public School and School Committee

Dear Carlisle Community,

As the school works to update its strategic plan, a Strategic Planning Steering Committee, composed of parents, staff, administrators, and community members, held its first meeting on Thursday, January 22. The committee's goal is to develop a comprehensive understanding of what is working well, identify ongoing challenges, and capture the hopes and expectations of the school community. The Carlisle School Committee is partnering with Amy McKinstry, Superintendent of Northbridge Public Schools and a DESE-trained strategic planning facilitator, to guide this work. More than 35 participants attended the initial meeting, helping to ensure broad and inclusive representation. Additional committee meetings are scheduled in the coming weeks, and the results of the planning process will be shared with the community.

Following the recent announcement of Superintendent Jim O'Shea's retirement at the end of this school year, the School Committee has begun planning for the leadership transition. A job description for the Superintendent position is being finalized and will be posted later this month. The School Committee will continue to seek feedback from the community and provide regular updates throughout the hiring process.

As we experience one of our snowiest winters in recent memory, we would like to extend a sincere thank you to our Facilities team for their hard work over the past few weeks with snow removal and campus clean-up, as well as to the Town DPW for their efforts throughout the community and around the school. Their work is not easy, and we are fortunate to have such dedicated professionals committed to keeping our campus safe and accessible. We truly appreciate all they do.

For the 2025-2026 school year, the district's addition of the Makerspace to STEAM programming has been an exciting success. In partnership with the Carlisle Education Foundation (CEF), the district launched an after-school Makerspace that offers students engaging, hands-on learning experiences. Courses such as woodworking, ceramics, sewing, and robotics encourage creativity while building skills in engineering, design, and problem-solving. CEF has helped connect us with talented local community members to serve as instructors, and the sessions, offered three times a year in the fall, winter, and spring, have been highly attended. We are deeply grateful to the Carlisle Education Foundation for its vision and ongoing support in bringing this program to life.

We are delighted to share some wonderful news about one of our own educators. Congratulations to Grade 8 Language Arts teacher Marcella Pixley, who has received the 2026 Sydney Taylor Book Award for best middle school novel for her book *Neshama*. This award is given by the Association of Jewish Libraries for outstanding books for children and teens that authentically portray the Jewish experience. We are proud of Ms. Pixley and grateful to have such talented educators in our community.

Warm regards,

Brian Waterson

Carlisle School Committee Chair

Jim O'Shea

Superintendent of Schools

Information from Eversource

Smart Meters are On Their Way

In the coming months, Eversource will be replacing all electric meters in our community with smart meters that have the latest technology. Your smart meter will give you new tools, including high usage and high bill alerts, and automated outage reporting. You'll receive multiple letters from Eversource starting about three months ahead of your meter exchange that will include more info on the installation process. For more information, visit eversource.com/smart-meters.



Town Seeking Comments on Fire Station Renovation Project

The Select Board will be discussing plans for the Fire Station Renovation with the Fire Station Building Renovation Committee (FSBRC) in a joint meeting on March 10, 2026 beginning at 7:00pm.

The Select Board and FSBRC are interested in any comments or concerns residents may have about the project. Residents are welcome to attend the meeting, where the Chair will give time to hear from interested parties as the agenda allows.

To submit comments prior to the meeting, please email Executive Assistant Gretchen Gallimore gallimore@carlislema.gov by Thursday, March 5th. Comments will be included in the public Select Board meeting packet. Residents may also mail or drop off handwritten comments to Town Hall, 66 Westford St, Attn: Gretchen Gallimore.

To learn more information, visit www.carlislema.gov/1320/Fire-Station-Renovation-and-Expansion



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